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## Assembly Committee on Elections and Campaign Reform

### Assembly Bill 104

Representative Richard J. Spanbauer

Good Afternoon Chairman Smith, committee members and guests. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in support of Assembly Bill 104, relating to reporting of information by nonresident registrants under the campaign finance law.

Current Law: Under current law, in-state committees influencing elections in the State of Wisconsin must file a campaign finance report with the Government Accountability Board (GAB). Committees that are not based in Wisconsin (out-of-state committees) are not obligated to list contributions from residents of other states. This also includes those contributions that may be used to influence any Wisconsin election. The out-of-state committees are currently only required to identify contributions, transfers, loans, and other income received.

The bill and why it is needed: Assembly Bill 104 will delete the current exemption for out-of-state committees. This bill will require committees to comply with the same campaign finance reporting requirements as committees that are headquartered within Wisconsin.

As we have seen with our last few elections, many committees contribute to the outcome of many of our state elections. We need to make sure that anyone who is contributing money to a committee in-state or out-of-state is identified in the proper avenues through the Government Accountability Board. Campaign finance reform is needed in this state and this bill is one step in the right direction in making sure that all committees contributing to the outcome of state elections are on a level playing field.

In closing, I would like to thank Chairman Smith for scheduling a public hearing on Assembly Bill 104. Thank you for your time today and I appreciate your support when Assembly Bill 104 comes for a vote before this committee.